The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 2068 | WILLIAM GREEN, *President* | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1950 | GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* | VOL. 40, NO. 48

Samuel Gompers said:
Each of us is the heir of all the ages — none of us lives, acts or thinks by himself alone.

Harriman, AFL Heads Laud Finns' Courage

Washington.—W. Averell Harriman, special assistant to President Truman, AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany told Finnish trade union leaders that all America admires the courage of the people of Finland in maintaining a democratic country almost at the side door of communist Russia.

The AFL was host at luncheon to President Aku Sumu of the Finnish Federation of Labor; Valdemar Liljestrom, president Metal Workers Union; Juho A. Kivisto, president Public Service Employes Union, and Vihtori Rantanen, president Paper Workers Union.

They are the guests of the AFL Free Trade Union Committee on a visit to New York, Washington, Tennessee Valley Authority, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, St. Paul, Duluth, Superior, Minneapolis and Detroit.

"I am happy to pay tribute to our courageous guests and through them to the men and women of Finland," Mr. Harriman said. "They are an inspiration to our country and the people of the free world. We want to help them in any way we can."

Mr. Green told the visitors that Finnish workers stand for the same things as the AFL including the right to negotiate with employers free from governmental interference.

"You can count on the American Federation of Labor standing with you," Mr. Green said. He observed that the Russians won't like the Finns' visit to the U. S.

Mr. Meany said that the Finnish federation is waging a "most courageous fight right in the shadow of the Kremlin to maintain its liberty and right to represent the workers."

"The mere fact that they came to America is indicative of their courage," he said.

Mr. Sumu expressed the appreciation of the delegation.

"I can assure you that this international activity of the American Federation of Labor is of great importance and significance," he said. "We live in difficult circumstances. We hope we can continue to make our own decisions."

The Finnish leaders were accompanied by Jay Lovestone, representing the AFL Free Trade Union Committee.

ASKS LETTERS

Washington.—A top German labor leader, Georg Reuter, who is in the United States to study labor affairs, urged a mutual exchange of information between unions here and in Germany.

Green Praises Finns

Washington.—AFL President William Green congratulates President Aku Sumu of the Finnish Federation of Labor on the courage of his organization in carrying on democratic free trade unionism at Russia's side door. Mr. Sumu's colleagues are, l to r., Vihtori Rantanen, president Paper Workers Union, Valdemar Liljestrom, president Metal Workers Union; Juho A. Kivisto, president Public Service Employes Union, and Savele Syrjala, interpreter.

Harriman Guest of AFL

Washington.—W. Averell Harriman (second from left), assistant to President Truman, was guest of AFL at luncheon to courageous Finnish trade union leaders. With him, l. to r., are AFL Vice President Harry C. Bates, president Bricklayers Union and newly-announced AFL member of President Truman's Wage Stabilization Board; AFL Vice President W. C. Doherty, president National Association of Letter Carriers, and Jay Lovestone, representative AFL Free Trade Union Committee.

AFL Vice President Harry C. Bates Named to Wage Stabilization Board

Washington.—President Truman appointed AFL Vice President Harry C. Bates as one of the 3 labor members of the new wartime Wage Stabilization Board in the Economic Stabilization Agency.

The completed board held its first meeting Nov. 28.

Other labor members named by Mr. Truman are Elmer E. Walker, vice president International Association of Machinists, and Emil Rieve, president CIO Textile Workers.

Federal Mediation Director Cyrus S. Ching is chairman of the board and other public members are Clark Kerr, University of California professor, and John Dunlop, Harvard University professor and chairman of the National Joint Board for Settlement of Jurisdictional Disputes.

WAGE BOARD MEMBER

Washington.—AFL Vice President Harry C. Bates, president Bricklayers Union, was appointed by President Truman one of three labor members of Wage Stabilization Board in new wartime Economic Stabilization Agency. (Editors: Mat of this photo distributed with Sept. 19, 1950, layout on Executive Council.)

The industry members are Henry B. Arthur, Hinsdale, Ill., manager commercial research department Swift & Co.; Ward Keene, Akron, O., president B. F. Goodrich Co.; Reuben Robertson, Jr., Cincinnati, president Champion Paper & Fiber Co.

The Defense Production Act, which created the board, provides also for a director of price administration under a director of stabilization. The latter post has been filled with the appointment of Alan Valentine, former president University of Rochester, but Mr. Truman has not yet found a price administrator.

The AFL is opposed to any wage freeze while prices are running away from the working man's ability to buy.

Redmond Raps Ban on Siren Use

Washington.—Failure of civil defense authorities to take into consideration lessons learned during World War II in setting up air raid warning systems was criticized by John P. Redmond, president AFL International Association of Fire Fighters, representing 68,000 AFL firemen throughout the country. Mr. Redmond said:

"The consideration of a siren ban by some civil defense authorities because of possible conflict with air raid warning signals cannot be based on experience learned during World War II and will only contribute to more accidents and delays in responding to emergency calls."

He said that by the end of World War II all cities, with the exception of New York, had rescinded bans on the use of sirens. In addition he pointed out that it was proven possible to use large sirens to sound an air raid warning signal which would not conflict with the sirens used on fire engines, police cars and ambulances.

"Most cities are today setting up air raid warning systems based on these World War II findings," he said, "but unfortunately there are a few who apparently are overlooking the lessons learned during the last war. It can be hoped that before casualties and accidents rise and delay in responding to calls result, all civil defense authorities will satisfactorily work out this problem."

Buy Independence Bonds.

Urge Laws to Aid Philippine Unions

Washington.—While both industry and agriculture have been very prosperous in the Philippines since the end of World War II, "little of this prosperity has seeped through to the working force," President Truman's Economic Survey Mission to the Philippines (Bell Mission) states in its recent report.

As a result of its survey, the mission made a number of important recommendations to the Philippine government on labor matters, and in its 107-page report to the President urges the following measures:

1. An adequate program of public health and improved education, and better facilities for urban housing.
2. Legislation establishing the right of workers to organize free trade unions to protect their economic interests.
3. Legislation eliminating abuses in present employment practices which deprive the workers of their just earnings. Such legislation would make mandatory direct payment of wages and retroactive monetary awards to workers.
4. A minimum wage for agricultural and other workers to provide subsistence standards of living.

"The trade union movement in the Philippines is still confused, haphazard and chaotic," the mission said. "There is only the beginning of a free trade union movement . . . This struggling but honest movement should be given all encouragement possible, as it offers the one hope that management and labor will work together through trade unions free from communist domination."

U. S. Lists Changes In Labor Unions

Washington.—The U. S. Department of Labor noted a further decline in the number of CIO unions in a mid-October revision of its 1950 Directory of Labor Unions in the United States.

The department reported that the AFL had 107 affiliates, the CIO had 30 and there were 70 unions unaffiliated with either AFL or CIO. The CIO at its peak strength counted 40 unions.

No net change occurred in the number of AFL affiliates. The federation's reinstatement of the International Metal Engravers and Marking Device Workers Union was offset by suspension of the International Spinners Union.

The CIO expelled 3 more affiliates on charges that they were Communist-dominated, bringing the total expelled to 11.

The Pocketbook Workers Union, New York, formerly independent, voted to become a part of the AFL International Handbag, Luggage, Belt and Novelty Workers Union.

LAUDS FUND

Washington.—Bert Jewell, labor adviser for the Economic Cooperation Administration and former president AFL Railway Employes Department, praised the establishment of a $100,000 Clinton S. Golden Fund at Harvard University.

The fund was provided by an anonymous donor to assist Harvard's trade union training program. Mr. Golden, former vice president CIO United Steelworkers and Mr. Jewell's associate at ECA, is a lecturer in the course. Mr. Jewell said:

"This type of educational work, valuable as it is to improvement of labor-management relations in the United States, has been intensely interesting to the European technical assistance teams that have visited the United States. When government funds are no longer available for facilitating exchange of personnel between the United States and Europe, we expect the educational institutions of the country to carry on this work for better international relations. That is especially the hope of those independent and AFL railroad unions that have been working with diligence to establish better relations and better communications with the railroad workers of Europe."

WCFL Rounding Out 25 Years Plans For Television Channel

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent of AFL News Service

Chicago.—The Chicago Federation of Labor, which has owned and operated its own radio station for 24 years, is planning to go into television.

Federation delegates unanimously adopted an executive board recommendation that the board of directors of radio station WCFL be instructed to take any steps necessary to obtain a television channel.

The executive board had examined the subject previously, and concluded a television outlet would be as essential for protection of labors interest in the future as radio has been in the past.

The AFL Executive Council endorsed the project and has pledged to help in all possible ways toward its realization.

WCFL, the Voice of Labor in Chicago, for a quarter-century has been a testimonial to the foresight of the late Ed Nockels, who preceded Joseph D. Keenan as secretary of the federation.

In the early 20s, the radio industry was small, expensive to play with, with an uncertain future. Many leaders in the Chicago labor movement were doubtful of its value as a medium of communication with the public. But Nockels demanded a radio station for Chicago labor, and he got it.

"Contribute," he urged of the city's great unions. "Labor deserves its own radio station."

On July 27, 1926, WCFL broadcast its first program. Because it was a pioneer, it is today a major outlet, operating on 50,000 kilowatts, the strongest power the Federal Communications Commission will let any radio station use. The station is looking toward its 25th anniversary next year.

Equal in power to any station in the country, WCFL also is equal in the quality of its programs.

In the field of classical music, it has presented weekly broadcasts of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra concerts, and 2 favorite recordings programs—the Treasury of Music and the Music Lovers' Hour.

In sports, it carries the entire schedule of the Chicago Cardinals professional football team, the entire schedule of the University of Notre Dame football team, up-to-the-second summaries of racing activities with trackside descriptions of the daily feature race, and numerous sport reviews and special features.

In news reporting it presents its own commentator, Vic Barnes, a veteran Chicago newspaperman, at 7 p.m. nightly. At 9 p.m. it is the Chicago outlet for the nationwide commentary of Frank Edwards, who is sponsored by the American Federation of Labor.

In public service WCFL also leads. In 1949 it broadcast an all-night entertainment, featuring Eddie Cantor, Fran Warren and other well-known stars to help raise funds for the Polio Foundation.

During Gov. Stevenson's Conference of Labor and Management for Industrial Safety early in May, WCFL broadcast the proceedings from a Chicago hotel. Two weeks later WCFL handled the address of President Truman from Chicago Stadium during the Jefferson Jubilee.

But the station's primary responsibility is to the 450,000 members of local unions affiliated with the federation. It is available at all times to unions in strike difficulties or in organizing drives. Recently it was credited with helping win an AFL victory in a department store chain bargaining election.

During the big printers' strike against the major Chicago daily newspapers, WCFL told the printers' side of the story night after night, month after month, throughout the long battle. If there had been no WCFL, the public would have had to depend upon the struck papers for information about the strike issues.

"We feel we are telling the story of organized labor in more effective fashion," William A. Lee, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, summed it up. "We believe that only by accenting the accomplishments of unions will we properly inform the public about the labor movement."

CANTOR ON WCFL.—Chicago.—Comedian Eddie Cantor (center), with President William Lee of Chicago Federation of Labor (left) and Marty Hogan (right), WCFL announcer, is typical of big name stars who have appeared on Chicago Federation of Labor's radio station WCFL. This shot was made of Cantor helping to raise funds for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

WCFL STUDIO ORCHESTRA.—Chicago.—Jack Kelly, musical director at WCFL, radio station of the Chicago Federation of Labor, tunes up the studio orchestra in rehearsal.

WERTS APPOINTED

Washington.—Lee R. Werts, formerly with the manpower division of the military government in Germany and more recently with the U. S. Department of Labor office of international affairs, has been appointed deputy director of the Office of Defense Manpower.

UNION WINS SUIT

Philadelphia.—A $336,500 strike damage suit against the AFL Paper Makers International Union ended in Federal Court in a verdict for the Paper Makers. The suit was an outgrowth of a 1948 strike by Local 500 against the Paterson Parchment Paper Co., Bristol, Pa.

Green Urges Congress Extend Rent Controls Until March 31

Washington.—AFL President William Green called on Congress to extend rent controls "at least until March 31" during the brief session which opened Nov. 27.

"It is imperative," Mr. Green said, "that this special session of Congress extend the present program at least until March 31 so that the 82d Congress will be able to adopt a strengthened rent control program to meet emergency needs of defense mobilization."

He said the curtailed residential construction caused by drastic controls will accentuate the housing shortage and make strong rent controls even more essential than heretofore.

Mr. Green expressed these views in telegrams to Chairman Brent Spence of the House Banking and Currency Committee and Chairman Burnett Maybank of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee. He congratulated both legislators for announcing publicly that they favored extension of rent controls.

President Truman asked Congress to extend controls to March 31 and Mr. Spence said he would introduce bill to do so.

But as a safeguard against the failure of Congress to extend federal rent ceilings, the AFL Housing Committee reminded secretaries of all Central Labor Unions where local governments had taken no action on rent controls that such action would be required by Dec. 31 under the present law.

AFL Vice President Harry C. Bates, chairman of the Housing Committee, said in letters to CLU secretaries:

"The American Federation of Labor will make every effort to make sure that the special session of Congress extends the present rent control program until some time in 1951, at least for those communities where it is now in effect. In view of the special requirements of this period of defense mobilization, this is the least that needs to be done.

"However, we cannot be sure that Congress will take this action during the special session. Therefore, I strongly suggest that if you feel that rent controls will be needed in your community after Dec. 31, you urge your city council to take the necessary action to extend rent control in your community beyond that date."

Action on rents was the major task ready for Congress when it reassembled for the first time since the Nov. 7 elections. The session is expected to adjourn before Christmas.

Enactment of an excess profits tax as requested by President Truman and urged by the AFL, and statehood for Alaska and Hawaii were also high on the agenda.

One to Paris, One Home

BORIS SHISHKIN

Director of the labor division of Economic Cooperation Administration in Paris since June 1948 returns to his post as AFL economist. He will be replaced abroad by Nelson H. Cruikshank, director AFL Social Insurance Activities.

NELSON H. CRUIKSHANK

AFL Director of Social Insurance Activities granted leave of absence to become director of the labor division Economic Cooperation Administration in Paris. Sailing Dec. 5 he will replace Boris Shishkin, AFL economist on leave, who will return to his post here.

TALKS ON ILO

Atlanta, Ga.—J. C. Turner, labor counselor of the Washington Branch of the International Labor Office, told the Southeastern Building and Construction Trades Council about the accomplishments of the Building, Civil Engineering and Public Works Committee of the ILO.

Turner drew a number of parallels between the program of the Building Trades Department of the AFL and the resolutions adopted by the ILO committee.

AFL Care Packages Aid India Strikers

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—The American Federation of Labor has won an important measure of goodwill and friendship among Indian trade unionists with its contribution, through affiliates, of food parcels to striking textile workers in Bombay, India.

Testifying to this statement are the reports and myriads of clippings which have just arrived at the offices of Labor's League for Human Rights and the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, which together sent 200 CARE food packages to India last month.

The action was taken following an appeal for aid by the textile workers affiliate of the Hind Mazdor Sabha, the democratic labor federation of India, sent to President William Green, Vice Presidents Matthew Woll and David Dubinsky. The affiliate pointed out that 40,000 textile workers had been on strike for 3 months, that the police had shot and killed 12 strikers, and that food was badly needed.

Labor's League and the ILGWU immediately appropriated $1,000 each from their treasuries which was cabled to Sabha representatives for CARE purchases. The packages were formally presented at a ceremony Oct. 26 and distributed to surviving dependents of the dead striking textile workers as well as other workers.

The parcels were handed over by S. R. Mohan Das, AFL representative, to D. G. Mahajani, president of the Sabha, and S. R. Dandavate, secretary of the Bombay Socialist party.

The story and photographs of the presentation were used widely in the English-language and vernacular press of India. Each parcel contains 10 pounds rice, 5 pounds sugar, 5 pounds wheat flour, 4 pounds dried peas, 4 pounds lentils, 3 pounds milk powder, eight pounds hard candy and 2 pounds laundry soap.

AFL organizations wishing to purchase such CARE parcels can send contributions to P.O. Box 65, Station G, New York City 19.

Starr Cites Shaw Assistance to Labor

New York.—Before most of us were born, the late George Bernard Shaw was busy stuffing envelopes and working hard to get people interested in his ideas about labor.

This unusual angle on Bernard Shaw, and his unique contributions to the labor movement, were discussed by Mark Starr, educational director of the AFL International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union on radio station WFDR.

Since Shaw died at 94 early in November, his influence as a literary figure, as a dramatist, and as a wit has been widely discussed, and his influence on labor largely neglected. Mr. Starr, who was born in England, the son of a miner, and grew up, was educated and worked in that country, drew on his personal experience to tell about it.

Shaw was "the guy who turned things upside down even if he agreed with you," Mr. Starr explained. "He was an embarrassment; very often, to both the people he supported and the people he opposed. If he was on your side, it was for very unusual reasons."

Shaw's Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism, and Economic What's What are certainly things from which labor people can get a lot of good, suggestive ideas, Mr. Starr said.

AFL Leaders Attend Child Conference

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor will be largely represented at the Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth Dec. 3-7.

In addition to representatives from the parent AFL, many affiliated AFL organizations will send spokesmen.

More than 5,000 delegates, invited by President Truman from all sections of the country, will attend.

White House conferences on children have been called by our Presidents every 10 years since 1909. The purpose of the 1950 conference is to determine how we can better help our children and young people gain the mental, emotional and spiritual qualities essential to healthy personality and to responsible citizenship. The delegates will also examine the physical, economic and social conditions necessary to this development.

More than 100,000 Americans throughout the country have been working on preparations for the Midcentury Conference. Assisting in the advance work have been 15,000 physicians, teachers and others who deal with children; representatives of minority groups, members of all religious faiths, youth, labor, civic, fraternal and other voluntary organizations—a cross section of the national population. Together they have appraised local and state services for children and young people.

The White House conference is nonpartisan and is not a federal government project, even though it is under presidential auspices. Previous conferences have resulted in many important benefits for children and young people. The first conference, called by President Theodore Roosevelt, brought about the establishment of the U. S. Children's Bureau. Other benefits include child labor legislation, aid to orphans, widows and handicapped children and standards for pediatric practice.

The delegates of the Midcentury conference will translate the facts gathered for them into recommendations and specific programs that will be useful to communities in providing better opportunities for children to achieve healthy personalities, and to become responsible citizens.

The AFL American Federation of Teachers announced that Irvin R. Kuenzli, national secretary, will represent the Committee on International Teachers Organizations at the White House conference. The Committee on International Teachers Organizations is an over-all committee of international teachers' organizations including the International Federation of Teachers' Associations, the International Federation of Secondary Teachers and the World Organization of the Teaching Profession.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

Samuel Gompers said:
Is there a man so impervious to the molding forces of the world in which he lives as to point to any one thing and say, "I, alone, did that?"

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1950 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Prices Shoot Through Roof; Bates Gives U. S. AFL Views on Wages

U. S. Won't Relax Work Standards; Briefs Labor

Tobin Rejects Proposals to Weaken Hours and Wage Safeguards

Washington. — Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin asserted that the nation's defense manpower problem can be met and there is no justification now for relaxation of hours or other standards.

Speaking to the 17th National Conference on Labor Legislation attended by scores of AFL officials, Secretary Tobin said it is up to the states to police industrial safety and health effectively in this critical period.

The new 82d Congress and legislatures of 44 states will begin regular sessions in January. Actions of the conference are expected to point the way for improved state and national labor legislation.

Mr. Tobin made these principal points:

1. The federal government is counting on cooperation of state labor officials to develop the kind of manpower program for defense which will make our country strong enough to preserve the peace of the world.
2. The government welcomes the vigilance and cooperation with which organized labor watches and works with those who administer labor laws.
3. Manpower is one of our major defense problems to be met by expansion of the labor force by use of older workers, women, physically handicapped and teen-agers; expansion of the apprentice training system.
4. There must be no sacrifice at this time of high labor standards.
5. Great emphasis must be put on industrial safety and health by the states.

Mr. Tobin saw these problems this way:

"We already have a civilian economy operating at the highest level in our peacetime history. Our labor force has never been so large as it is today. Yet it must be expanded to meet the nation's defense requirements.

"That can and will be done. Our labor supply is much more flexible than is commonly believed. It can readily be expanded in the year ahead by roughly 2 million in the context of partial mobilization. Normal growth of the labor force will add at least a half million workers. An increased inflow of teenagers, housewives, the handicapped and older persons may be expected to the extent of at least 1½ million.

"In addition, 100,000 veterans will be out of school and ready to go to work. If necessary, an increase of one hour in the average workweek would be the equivalent of 400,000 workers.

"There is general agreement that current defense production has not reached a point where relaxation of hours laws is justified. Should it become necessary later, we will want to work out cooperative operating procedures, to sustain basic labor laws, and to take care of real emergencies when, for brief periods and under certain conditions, hours standards may be relaxed.

"What I have said about hours also applies to all other kinds of working conditions. We must not only maintain our high standards, but move forward. Can anyone argue that a free, untired, healthy, vigorous and highly skilled working force is not superior to a slave working force? Should we not be more than ever insistent upon high standards? All of the protections and conservation methods that can be thrown about our producing force will pay dividends in the long haul.

"Women, the physically handicapped and the older workers need special consideration in hiring, in training and in all other respects, clearing the way to the fine contributions these groups can make. No one is better qualified to bring these considerations forward than state labor commissioners.

"We have the machinery now for the orderly channelling of manpower into the necessary jobs. The great public federal-state employment services are the proper agencies to pool manpower requirements, and release the supply where it is most needed. The federal-state system of employment offices reaches into virtually every community. They can do the job.

"For the moment, at least, our chief difficulty has to do with particular skills and occupations, in areas with a heavy concentration of defense employment. This shortage points up the need for more apprentice training.

"In each state consideration should be given at once to basic legislation which will insure adequate and uniform safety codes and standards; to injury statistics on which sound preventive measures can be based; to continuing state-wide programs that spotlight critical or essential industry safety problems, and to plant service by state safety personnel that will meet the requirements of both large and small operations. No state in the union will want to overlook this important angle of manpower conservation."

Buy Independence Bonds.

NEW SECURITY BOOKLETS

Washington. — "Your New Social Security, 47 Questions and Answers," has just been published by the Federal Security Agency to explain the 1950 amendments to the Social Security Act and is available by writing FSA, Washington 25, D. C.

13 AFL Officials Are Included in Group at Pentagon

Washington.—AFL President William Green, Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and 7 other members of the executive council were in the 13-man AFL delegation briefed by high military and civilian officials on the latest Korean war crisis.

The AFL officials made a trip to the Pentagon along with other labor, industry and agriculture leaders to hear sober reports on the Korean situation and home front defense needs from Secretary of Defense George C. Marshall, Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert A. Lovett, Mrs. Anna M. Rosenberg, assistant secretary of defense; Lieut. Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, Army deputy chief of staff for plans; Chairman W. Stuart Symington of the National Security Resources Board and others.

In addition to President Green and Mr. Meany, the AFL group included Vice President George M. Harrison, Charles J. MacGowan, Matthew Woll, Dan W. Tracy, William C. Doherty, W. C. Birthright and Harry C. Bates, President Martin P. Durkin of the Plumbers, President James A. Brownlow of the Metal Trades Department, President Richard J. Gray of the Building Trades Department and Joseph D. Keenan, director Labor's League for Political Education.

Mr. Symington told the 125 visitors that he does not see how it will be possible to avoid some unemployment during the transition from peace to wartime production.

It is impossible to mesh all the gears perfectly during this transition, he said. He said the conference surveyed manpower available and needed.

Hines Named to Help With Point 4

Washington. — President Truman appointed AFL Special Representative Lewis G. Hines a member of the 12-man Advisory Board on International Development to help plan and administer the Point Four program of technical assistance to underdeveloped areas of the world.

Congress appropriated $25,000,000 to begin the work. Mr. Truman appointed Nelson A. Rockefeller chairman of the board and Dr. Henry Garland Bennett, president Texas A. and M. College, administrator.

The plan is called Point Four because it was the fourth point of Mr. Truman's foreign policy enunciated at his inaugural in 1949. It is endorsed and supported by the American Federation of Labor which insists that labor's views on the subject be heard.

The AFL urges that the plan be administered so that eventual control and ownership of the projects will be in the hands of the people of the country aided and that the workers be guaranteed the right to form their own democratic unions, bargain collectively, and that there be no discrimination or forced labor.

Mr. Truman met with the new board and issued a statement.

"The encouragement of economic and social progress in the underdeveloped areas is one of the most important problems facing the free world," the President said. "This is particularly true in those countries of Asia where the communist menace is so great.

"There is a direct relationship between strengthening underdeveloped areas and strengthening the free peoples of the entire world. Two-thirds of the world's people live in these areas. They suffer from hunger, disease, ignorance and poverty. These people have already determined that there shall be change, come what may.

"The real question now is what direction that change shall take—whether it will blindly sweep aside many of the values that free peoples have learned to cherish, or whether it will contribute toward a more peaceful, prosperous world."

Southerners at Conference

Washington.—This group of southern delegates to 17th National Conference on Labor Legislation typified a cross section of the 300 representatives present. L. to r., Secretary-Treasurer Charles M. Houk of Tennessee State Federation of Labor; Arkansas State Commissioner of Labor C. K. Call; Mrs. Lester Doyal, secretary Little Rock, Ark., Central Trade Council, and President C. W. Mowery of Arkansas State Federation of Labor.

TO HELP ASIA

London.—A comprehensive 6-year program for economic development in south and southeast Asia is revealed in a report published by 7 member-countries of the British Commonwealth—Australia, Canada, Ceylon, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

This program is designed to raise production and living standard and thus promote economic and social stability in the area.

Development projects are blueprinted for India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Malaya, Singapore and British North Borneo. The plan attaches great importance to bringing in other countries of the area and to putting the whole program into a world context.

Buy Independence Bonds.

Meany Says Leaders Must Help People Understand the Issues

San Francisco.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany said that 1951 will be a critical year for organized labor and that "this last election made it all too clear that our own people do not understand the issues."

"That is our fault," he said in extemporaneous remarks before the San Francisco Labor Council. Mr. Meany spoke here during a visit to arrange for the 1951 AFL convention in San Francisco Sept. 17-21.

He set the principal tasks of the AFL as organization, union security and education.

"The first thing we must do is to wipe out the apathy of our own membership—to convince them that there is a fight on," he said. "This last election was a defeat for organized labor. Let's say that it may be good for us—it may make us realize that there is a threat hanging over our heads.

"There is one lesson we can learn from this election—you can't win elections unless you vote. Less than 50 percent of the 16 million trade unionists eligible to vote did vote.

"It is the responsibility of labor leaders—business agents and local union officials—to see to it that their people know the score. This last election made it all too clear that our people did not understand the issues. That is our fault."

Mr. Meany pointed out that labor is in politics not because of any desire to participate in government or even to place its candidates in office but because "only through politics can we accomplish the bread and butter idea of raising the American standard of life—and that is the job of the trade union movement.

"The year 1951 is a critical one at home and abroad," Mr. Meany said. "We are faced with a desperate situation in the world scene and perhaps, from the point of view of the trade unionist, with an equally desperate situation here in this country.

"In the international field there is the fact that the forces of freedom which fought and were victorious in two wars are now faced with another threat of totalitarian domination. As trade unionists and American citizens we must be concerned with that fact.

"A trade union movement such as we have built up in this country cannot exist under a totalitarian system. There are no free trade unions in Russia or in the satellite countries under Russia's control. As American citizens it is up to us to raise our voices as we have raised them again and again to see to it that America is prepared. No one can sit this one out.

"The trade union movement was born when the working people came to realize that they must coordinate their efforts if they were to obtain for the worker a fair return of the wealth that he produced.

"That was Gompers' theory—that the worker was entitled to a better return of the wealth and things he produced. What is important in this country—the reason we have achieved our position in the world today—is not the wealth this country possesses but the fact that we have a standard of life that enables our people to enjoy the things we produce."

Mr. Meany praised the education programs and classes sponsored by the San Francisco Labor Council. He urged that every such means available be utilized to help working men and women to understand what is going on in the world.

AFL-IAM Unity

Washington.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany (standing) chats with Eric Peterson (left), secretary-treasurer, and Al J. Hayes, president International Association of Machinists at AFL luncheon given for Finnish trade union leaders. IAM members began voting Dec. 1 on reaffiliation with the AFL.

Machinists Members Begin Balloting On Reaffiliation Urged by Officers

Washington.—The 600,000 members of the International Association of Machinists began balloting Dec. 1 on reaffiliation with the American Federation of Labor.

IAM local lodges will vote at meetings during December, the referendum to be completed by Dec. 31. The IAM left the AFL in 1945.

Reaffiliation with the AFL was recommended unanimously by the Machinists executive council last October. Machinists President A. J. Hayes told his members:

"We earnestly request that the entire membership of the IAM support this unanimous action of their executive council by an overwhelming vote in the interests of trade union unity.

"Our reaffiliation with the AFL is, in our opinion, a constructive way to work for this desirable objective. We pledge you our full support of the program to achieve complete unity with all segments of the American labor movement."

The referendum was ordered after the Machinists reached complete agreement on a fair and equitable basis for reaffiliation.

71,000 GET 12 CENTS

San Francisco.—An estimated 71,000 AFL workers in California received an average 12 cents per hour wage increase through collective bargaining negotiations concluded in October.

Presents Check

New York, N. Y.—Thomas G. Young (right), vice president New York State Federation of Labor and secretary National Urban League, accepts check for $1,200 from Charles V. Molesworth, president Adam Hat Stores, to finance fifth Adam Hat fellowship in social work studies administered by the league.

Pennsylvania AFL Fights Sales Tax

Harrisburg, Pa.—The Pennsylvania Federation of Labor representing 700,000 members reiterated its opposition to a state sales or wage tax.

President James L. McDevitt said, "Now that consideration is being given by the state administration for increased revenue for the 1951-52 budget, the federation wishes to reiterate its position relative to state taxes. Resolutions adopted at the federation's convention called for strong opposition by the federation against sales or wage tax as a workers' tax because it would be a burden falling most heavily on the lowest income groups or those least able to pay for it.

"Workers in Pennsylvania must be consulted on the matter of taxes, for unjustified increase in taxes amounts to a cut in the worker's 'take-home pay.' As to 'hidden taxes' on commodities and services, the worker must be given a full insight into this method of raising revenue by collecting taxes which are concealed in the price of a product or service."

Butchers Donate Turkeys

New York.—General Carlos P. Romulo (center), foreign secretary of the Philippines and past president United Nations General Assembly, accepts 25-pound turkey from Joseph Belsky right), vice president AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, and presents the gobbler to Lt. Col. Harold R. Smith, Salvation Army social director, as the first of 300 pounds of turkey given by union "as a gesture of peace and thanksgiving."

AFL Official Informs Stabilization Board Position on Pay

Washington.—AFL Vice President Harry C. Bates gave AFL views opposing any freezing of wages low while freezing prices high at the initial meetings of the wartime Wage Stabilization Board.

Mr. Bates, one of three labor members of the 9-man board, told Chairman Cyrus S. Ching and other colleagues that the AFL takes the position that before any wage stabilization measures are undertaken, collective bargaining must be allowed to bring wages to a pre-Korean parity with prices.

Mr. Ching told a news conference after the board's first meeting that wage stabilization is tied closely to price controls. He said the board was given no encouragement by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics or Council of Economic Advisors that the cost of living will not increase over the next few months.

There will be further price rises, Mr. Ching said. He said price controls must come first before there are wage controls and that there had been no decision yet to request a no-strike pledge from labor.

The official AFL position expounded by Mr. Bates, as set forth at the Houston convention, is that wage stabilization must permit pay rises to catch up with living costs. The convention said also:

"We emphatically reject any rigid formulas which would tie changes in wages with changes in cost of living. There must always be room for wage changes to correct interplant and interindustry inequities, and for wage increases based on increased productivity."

Henry C. Iler Dies; AFGE Union Chief

Washington. — President Henry C. Iler of the AFL American Federation of Government Employes died Nov. 29 at the Marine Hospital, Baltimore.

AFL President William Green and other AFL officials attended the funeral in Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church Dec. 1. Burial was made at Gainesville, Ga.

Only 45, Mr. Iler realized an ambition of many years when he was elected president of the AFGE at its August convention in Omaha. He was stricken a few days after the convention closed and he had been in the hospital since that time.

A career civil servant, he entered the federal service in 1933 as a $930-a-year clerk in the Crop Loan Agency. Mr. Iler interrupted his federal service in 1936 to become chief organizer for the AFGE.

A close friend of President Green, Mr. Iler was appointed an AFL representative on the old War Production Board and he was a labor adviser to the War Manpower Commission. He was later named the first chairman of the Employes Compensation Appeals Board, a post he held until his death. He also served as a special assistant to Federal Security Administrator Oscar Ewing.

Mr. Iler was a native of Kentucky and a past president of the Kentucky State Society here. He also was a member of the national council of the Federal Bar Association, a member of the board of trustees of the United Community Services and an active member of the Optimist Club.

PICK PRICE CHIEF

Washington. — President Truman appointed Mayor Michael V. DiSalle of Toledo, O., to be director of price stabilization in the Economic Stabilization Agency, which also includes the Wage Stabilization Board.

Mayor DiSalle, 42, served as chairman of the Toledo Labor-Management Citizens Committee which won recognition for helping to maintain industrial peace during World War II under the widely-publicized "Toledo Plan." He is a lawyer.

Living Costs Hit All-Time Peak With No Halt in Sight

Washington.—Retail prices reached a new all-time high during October.

The U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the prices of goods and services bought by moderate-income families in large cities increased 0.6 percent between Sept. 15 and Oct. 15, 1950, raising the Consumers' Price Index to 174.8 (1935-39 = 100).

This was 0.2 percent above the previous high reached in August and September 1948. It was 2.7 percent higher than the last pre-Korean index (June 1950), 3.7 percent higher than October 1949, and 31 percent higher than June 1946.

Prices of all principal groups of commodities were higher on the average during October, with the largest increases reported for housefurnishings, which rose 2.3 percent, and apparel, which rose 1.5 percent.

The increase in food prices was restrained by a seasonal decline in average prices of meats, but coffee prices advanced 2.1 percent to reach a new high for the fourth consecutive month. Fuel prices rose 0.9 percent, rents went up 0.6 percent and miscellaneous goods and services advanced 0.4 percent.

Along with the announcement of the indexes for October, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced also a correction of its indexes for rent. This is to correct an error which has been accumulating since 1940.

The rent indexes, as published heretofore, have measured the changes in rents of houses after they were in the rental market, but did not reflect the higher rents charged for new dwellings when they were first rented. In July 1949 the bureau made a rough estimate that as a result of this "downward bias" the rent index in February of that year was too low by something between 3½ and 5 index points and as a result the all-items Consumers' Price Index was too low by something between 0.6 and 0.9 index points.

Early in 1950 the bureau conducted extensive field surveys of rent which now make it possible to estimate more precisely the amount of this accumulated "downward bias." The correction accumulated from 1940 to January 1950 is 5.7 percent of the rent index. Applying this to the October index would raise the rent index by 7.1 index points and the all-items index by 1.3 index points.

The amount of this correction is a little higher than the original rough estimate, primarily because it takes account of the very high rate of building of new dwellings during 1949. The earlier estimate was as of February 1949.

This correction of 1.3 index points has accumulated gradually over a decade, and most of it during the period from 1947 through 1949, when most of the new home building occurred.

No part of this correction reflects developments during the year 1950. Although a great many new dwellings were built during 1950, rents were decontrolled in 1950 in a number of cities. While the additional building would add to the accumulated bias, the decontrol would diminish it; the bureau has, therefore, no way of estimating the net effect since January 1950.

The correction for the "new unit bias" is to be considered an official figure, but it has not been incorporated by adding it to the index number for October. This is because the bureau, as previously announced, has planned certain other adjustments of the Consumers' Price Index, which are scheduled to be introduced in the January 1951 index to be published in February.

In order to avoid 2 separate adjustments to the index numbers, the bureau has decided to publish these corrections for October separately from the index numbers and to delay their incorporation into the index until the other changes are made in the indexes for January 1951.

The bureau recognizes that changes of this kind raise questions of the application of the indexes to contracts of various kinds, particularly collective agreements of labor and management. For the convenience of these users, the bureau will publish both the index in its present form and the index with the interim adjustments retroactively for all of 1950 and through all of 1951. These changes will complete the bureau's program for the interim adjustments of the index, and no further changes are planned until the major revision to be introduced in the latter half of 1952.

AFL Takes Plant From CIO, Indie

Bridgeport, Conn.—Regional Director Michael J. Walsh of the AFL announced that the Connecticut Federation of Labor polled 1,657 votes among employes at the Bridgeport Brass Co. to win bargaining rights in a National Labor Relations Board election.

The CIO United Steelworkers received 472 votes and the leftish independent Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, expelled by the CIO for Communist leanings, got 613 ballots.

Advised of the victory, AFL President William Green telegraphed congratulations to Mr. Walsh "and others who worked with you for their manifestation of loyalty and for great service they rendered."

The winning AFL union was Brass Workers Federal Labor Union 24411 which not only defeated the petitioning CIO Steelworkers but also walloped the independent which had held bargaining rights at the plant.